

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (previously presented) A drive through system comprising:

an ordering system mounted on moving means on which an order is placed;

an acceptance center system which accepts the order from the ordering system;

a preparation system installed in each of a plurality of preparation places where a merchandise is prepared and stored; and

a transfer system installed in each of a plurality of transfer places where the merchandise prepared in a selected preparation place of the plurality of preparation places is transferred to an orderer, the systems being connected to one another via a network,

wherein at least one of the preparation system of the selected preparation place and the transfer system of a selected transfer system periodically acquires position information indicating a present position of the orderer from the ordering system from when ordering information indicating that the orderer has placed an order for the merchandise is received from the ordering system until information indicating that transfer of the merchandise to the orderer has been completed is received from the ordering system, and determines the orderer's present position, and

the selected preparation place is selected as being within a predetermined distance of the selected transfer place.

2. (currently amended) A drive through system comprising:

an ordering system mounted on moving means on which an order is placed;

an acceptance center system which accepts an order from the ordering system;

a preparation system installed in each of a plurality of preparation places where a merchandise is prepared and stored; and

a transfer system installed in each of a plurality of transfer places where the merchandise prepared in one of the plurality of preparation places is transferred to an orderer, the systems being connected to one another via a network,

the ordering system comprising:

a position information processing means for receiving a request from a requestor via a mobile network for position information, acquiring the position information from a global positioning system unit and transmitting the position information via the mobile network to the requestor

~~———— a position information acquiring means for acquiring position information indicating a present position of the orderer;~~

~~———— a position information transmission means for transmitting the position information acquired by the position information acquisition means; and~~

an ordering means for transmitting ordering information indicating that the merchandise is ordered to the acceptance center system,

the acceptance center system comprising:

a preparation place and transfer place determination means for determining the preparation place where the ordered merchandise is prepared in accordance with the ordering information and the transfer place where the merchandise is transferred upon receiving the ordering information from the ordering system;

an ordering information transfer means for transmitting the ordering information to the transfer system and the preparation system in the preparation place and the transfer place determined by the preparation place and transfer place determination means; and

a position acquiring stop command means for transmitting a command for stopping the acquiring of the position information to the transfer system and the preparation system upon receiving transfer information indicating that the orderer has received the merchandise ordered in accordance with the ordering information from the preparation system.

3. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the acceptance center system comprises:

a preparation place and transfer place position information storage means for storing one or more pieces of preparation place and transfer place position information indicating locations of the determined preparation place and the determined transfer place, and

the preparation place and transfer place determination means transmits a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information from the ordering system, refers to the preparation place and transfer place position information so that the designated merchandise can be prepared based from the acquired ordering information and position information, extracts a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places positioned in a predetermined distance from the orderer's present position, and extracts a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places positioned in a predetermined distance from the extracted preparation place.

4. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the preparation system comprises:

a preparation place position acquiring means for periodically transmitting the request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system from when the ordering information is received from the acceptance center system until the acquisition stop command is received to acquire the position information.

5. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the transfer system comprises:

a transfer place position acquiring means for periodically transmitting the request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system from when the ordering information is received from the acceptance center system until the acquisition stop command is received to acquire the position information; and

a transfer information transmission means for inputting the transfer information and transmitting the inputted transfer information to the acceptance center system upon completion of transfer of the merchandise to the orderer.

6. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 5, wherein the transfer system comprises:

a trouble occurrence notification means for monitoring a movement path of the orderer based on the position information acquired by the transfer place position acquiring means and transmitting trouble occurrence information indicating that a trouble has occurred in transferring the merchandise to the acceptance center system, when a distance between the orderer's present position and the extracted transfer place, where a time when a merchandise transfer is scheduled increases with an elapse of time.

7. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 6, wherein the preparation place and transfer place determination means newly acquires the position information from the ordering system, and extracts the preparation place and the transfer place again, when the acceptance center system receives the trouble occurrence information.

8. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, further comprising:

a traffic information management server which is connected to the network to store traffic information of a road,
the transfer system comprising:

a transfer place traffic information acquisition means for transferring a request for acquiring the traffic information to the traffic information management server to acquire the traffic information; and

a transfer place arrival time estimating means for estimating a time at which the orderer reaches the extracted transfer place based on the acquired position information and traffic information.

9. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2,

wherein the preparation system comprises:

a preparation place traffic information acquisition means for transmitting a request for acquiring the traffic information to the traffic information management server to acquire the traffic information; and

a preparation place arrival time estimating means for estimating a time at which the orderer reaches the extracted transfer place based on the acquired position information and traffic information.

10. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the ordering system comprises destination information transmission means for transmitting destination information indicating a destination of movement by the orderer to the acceptance center system,

the acceptance center system comprises movement path estimating means for estimating a future movement path of the orderer based on the received position information and destination information upon receiving the position information and destination information from the ordering system, and

the preparation place and transfer place determination means extracts the preparation place and the determined transfer place within a predetermined distance from the estimated movement path.

11. (previously presented) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the preparation system comprises preparation place operation situation notification means for transmitting information indicating an operation situation of the preparation place to the acceptance center system,

the transfer system comprises transfer place operation situation notification means for transmitting information indicating the operation situation of the determined transfer place to the acceptance center system, and

the preparation place and transfer place determination means extracts the preparation place and the transfer place low in operation ratio based on the operation situation upon receiving the information indicating the operation situations of the extracted preparation place and the extracted transfer place.

12. (currently amended) The drive through system according to claim 2, wherein the ordering system comprises permission period input means for inputting a position acquiring permission period indicating a period in which the position information is permitted to be transmitted by the position information ~~transmission~~ processing means, and

the position information transmittance means transmits the position information in the limited position acquiring permission period inputted by the permission period input means.

13. (previously presented) A merchandise order receiving method using drive through system comprising:

an ordering system mounted on moving means on which an order is placed;

an acceptance center system which accepts an order from the ordering system;

a preparation system installed in each of a plurality of preparation places where a merchandise is prepared and stored; and

a transfer system installed in each of a plurality of transfer places where the merchandise prepared in one of the plurality of preparation places is transferred to an orderer, the systems being connected to one another via a network, the method comprising:

an ordering step of transmitting ordering information indicating the ordering of the merchandise to the acceptance center system by the ordering system;

a position information transmission step of transmitting position information indicating an acquired present position of the orderer by the ordering system;

a preparation place and transfer place determination step of determining a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places where the merchandise ordered in accordance with the ordering information is prepared and a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places where the merchandise is transferred based on the ordering information and the position information received from the ordering system by the acceptance center system;

an ordering information transmission step of transmitting the ordering information to the transfer system and the preparation system in the determined preparation place and the determined transfer place by the acceptance center system;

a preparation place position acquiring step of periodically transmitting a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by the preparation system; and

a transfer place position acquiring step of periodically transmitting a request for acquiring the position information to the ordering system to acquire the position information upon receiving the ordering information by the transfer system.

14. (previously presented) The merchandise order receiving method according to claim 13, further comprising:

a trouble occurrence notification step of monitoring a movement path of the orderer based on the acquired position information and transmitting trouble occurrence information indicating that a trouble has occurred in transferring the merchandise to the acceptance center system, when the transfer system recognizes that a distance between the orderer's present position and the transfer place where a time when a merchandise transfer is scheduled increases with an elapse of time; and

a preparation place and transfer place determination step of newly acquiring the position information from the ordering system to re-determine a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places and a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places, upon the acceptance center system receives the trouble occurrence information.

15. (previously presented) The merchandise order receiving method according to claim 13, further comprising:

a transfer information transmission step of inputting transfer information indicating that the orderer has received the ordered merchandise by the ordering information to transmit the inputted transfer information to the acceptance center system upon completion of the transfer of the merchandise to the orderer by the transfer system; and

a position acquiring stop command step of transmitting a command for stopping the acquiring of the position information to the transfer system and the preparation system upon receiving the transfer information by the acceptance center system.

16. (previously presented) A program for allowing a computer to execute:

an ordering information input process of inputting ordering information indicating a merchandise ordering from an orderer;

a position information input process of inputting position information indicating a present position of the orderer;

a preparation place and transfer place determination process of determining a preparation place of a plurality of preparation places where a merchandise ordered in accordance with the ordering information is prepared and selected and a transfer place of a plurality of transfer places where the merchandise is transferred based on the inputted ordering information and position information; and

an ordering information output process of outputting the ordering information to information processing devices installed in the determined preparation place and the determined transfer place and permitting the acquisition of the position information.

17. (previously presented) The program according to claim 16 for allowing the computer to execute:

a trouble occurrence notification input process of inputting trouble occurrence information indicating that a distance between the orderer's present position and the determined transfer place where the merchandise transfer is scheduled increases with an elapse of time and a trouble has occurred in merchandise transfer; and

a preparation place and transfer place re-determination process of newly inputting the position information to determine a preparation place of a plurality of preparation places and the transfer place of a plurality of transfer places again, when the trouble occurrence information is inputted.

18. (previously presented) The program according to claim 16 for allowing the computer to execute:

a transfer information input process of inputting transfer information indicating the completion of the merchandise transfer to the orderer; and

a position acquiring stop command process of outputting a command for stopping the acquiring of the position information to information processing devices installed in the determined preparation place and the determined transfer place, when the transfer information is inputted.

19. (previously presented) A method for providing merchandise pickup for an order placed from a mobile ordering system where the order is prepared in one of a plurality of preparation places and transferred to an entity placing the order in one of a plurality transfer places, the comprising:

acquiring the order placed by the mobile ordering system in an acceptance system;

determining a transfer place of the plurality of transfer places where the order is transferred to the entity placing the order, the transfer place determined by its location in correspondence to an expected path of the entity placing the order;

determining a preparation place of the plurality of preparation places where merchandise of the order is prepared, the preparation place is determined by its predetermined distance to an associated transfer place;

transmitting to the determined the transfer place and the preparation place the order from the acceptance system;

preparing the merchandise of the order at the preparation place;

delivering the merchandise of the order, prepared at the preparation place to the transfer place; and

transferring the order from the transfer place to the entity that placed the order.